

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

This Amendment is submitted in further response to the final Official Action dated January 9, 2004 and in light of the comments in the Advisory Action dated April 29, 2004. A Request for Continued Examination is submitted concurrently with this Amendment

Based on the comments in the Advisory Action, it is understood that the moving bar 26 disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,642,636 to *Mitsui* is interpreted to correspond to the claimed open link, while the combination of the rotatable lever 33 and the rod 29 is interpreted to correspond to the claimed inside lever. It is further understood from the comments in the Advisory Action that the term "engagement" as used in Claims 1 and 18 has been interpreted in such a way that the rod 29/lever 33 disclosed in *Mitsui* are movable into an out of engagement with the moving bar 26 in the manner recited in Claims 1 and 18.

Considering these interpretations and to better distinguish the claimed subject matter over the disclosure in *Mitsui*, independent Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to recite that the inside lever rotates into contact with the open link and rotates out of contact with the open link. The rod 29/lever 33 arrangement disclosed in *Mitsui* does not both move into contact with the moving bar 26 and out of contact with the moving bar 26. Indeed, the rod 29/lever 33 arrangement always contacts the moving bar 26. It is thus respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 18 are patentably distinguishable over the disclosure contained in *Mitsui*

It is also understood from the comments in the Advisory Action that the disclosure in *Mitsui* can be interpreted to include the features and operational arrangement recited in the last clause of independent Claim 21. To more clearly distinguish the claimed subject matter over the disclosure in *Mitsui*, the last clause of independent Claim 21 has been amended to recite that the rotation of the rotary gear member resulting from operation of the electric driving source moves the swing lever to shift the open link from the unlocked position to the locked position without causing rotation of the unitarily rotatable element. In *Mitsui*, with the disclosed locking device in the unlocked position, the rotation of the segment gear 48 resulting from operation of the motor moves the linking lever 53 to shift the moving bar 26 in a way that causes rotation of the leg portion 35 of the ratchet 8. The reason is because the operation of motor is designed to effect opening of the trunk lid rather than locking of the trunk lid.

In light of the amendment incorporated into independent Claim 21, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed door lock system recited in independent Claim 21 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure contained in *Mitsui*.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

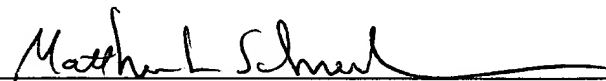
in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully request that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 10, 2004

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